

THE
BUTLER
HOSPITAL
ITS STORY

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BUTLER HOSPITAL
PROVIDENCE
R. I.

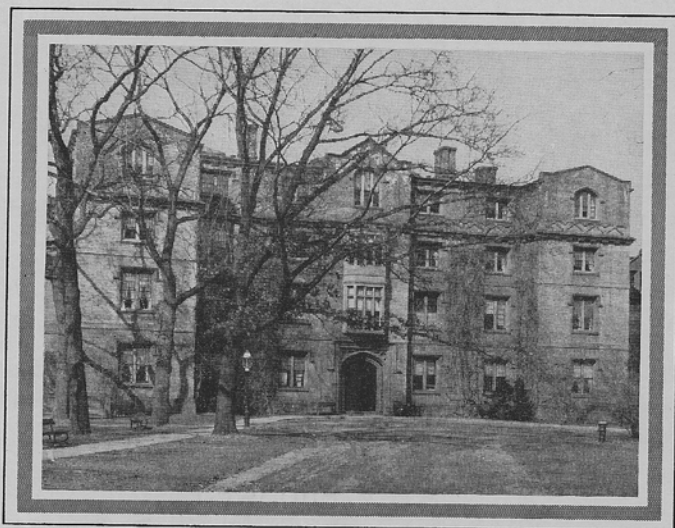


THE BUTLER HOSPITAL-ITS STORY



An endowed
public institution
for the treatment
of mental illnesses

PUBLISHED 1926
BY THE TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT
OF BUTLER HOSPITAL



BUTLER HOSPITAL is a public, endowed institution which, up to its capacity, accepts for treatment *all* acute, curable cases of mental illness. Disorders of the mind may be prevented and cured, just as physical illnesses are. Butler Hospital, for over 80 years, has gone forward with this noteworthy service in a painstaking, scientific, sympathetic way.

BUTLER HOSPITAL

A Public, Endowed Institution for the Treatment of Mental Illnesses

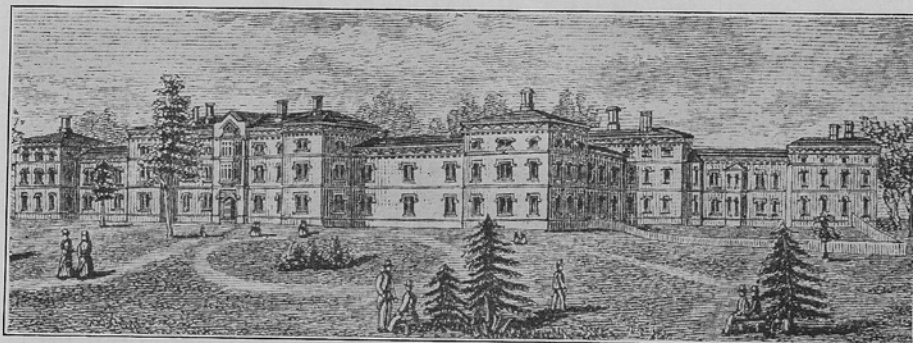
IN a day and age when *physical* ailments and disabilities are a common topic of conversation — even fashionable — there is an almost universal lack of information about the progress being made in the treatment of *nervous and mental* illnesses. Perhaps this is because we shun the thought of human beings who lack the faculty of mental control. But the personal loss is so great, the suffering and sorrow so intense and unforgettable, that we cannot afford to leave the smallest stone unturned in our efforts to cure mental diseases.

We treat a disease, an infection, or an injury to an eye, an ear, a hand, or any part of the body with highly-developed medical and surgical skill. But all too often those whose control center (the brain or nervous system) is disarranged, are left to work out their own salvation.

The sad part of this is that mental illnesses are often progressive in intensity until they are incurable. Just as a slight infection of the finger may lead to blood poisoning and death, so can a mere nervous breakdown lead to an incurable derangement. Many of these nervous disorders can be entirely cured if treated in time. Often a deep-seated affection can be cured with persistent, intelligent treatment. Children, especially, respond most satisfactorily if treated at the first sign of abnormalcy.

From earliest times up to the beginning of the 19th century, the person whose reasoning and actions did not conform to the accepted standards was ostracized, or “put away.”

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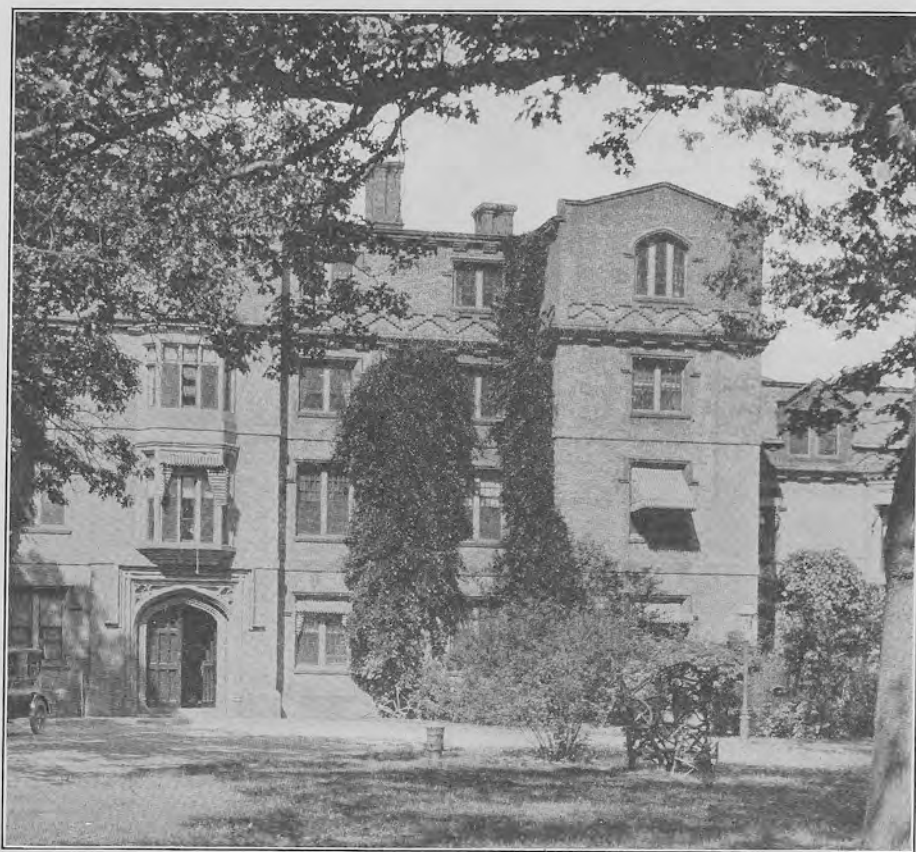
An early woodcut of Butler Hospital, founded in 1844, one of the first institutions in this country devoted to the treatment of mental illnesses.

To-day we realize that a mentally ill person is merely one whose sickness has centered in his nervous system instead of, let us say, his heart. One or more mental traits (admirable ones, perhaps), have grown to unusual proportions. Strange anxieties, which we all feel, have become, to him, over-powering. But this condition is capable of cure through scientific, sympathetic care. What such patients need is not "a place where they will be safe from the world, and the world will be safe from them," but a hospital where they can be made well again, ready to go back into the world to assume their responsibilities.

Butler Hospital was one of the first institutions of its kind in the country. It was conceived in the mind of a Rhode Island citizen, with the understanding and courage to advocate its erection and provide the means to make it possible. It was built and endowed by past generations. It has been so successful that many others the country over have been patterned after it. Its record should be known by the men and women of the present day; the character of its work should be understood; its contribution to the comfort and happiness of the people of this State throughout the fourscore years and more of its service should be a matter of common knowledge.

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In the belief that you will find interesting the narrative of Butler Hospital's unique origin and development, together with a description of the institution it has come to be, devoting the full measure of its scientific skill and physical resources to winning back to society and self man's priceless attribute, mental health, this publication has been prepared and presented to you.



The present Administration Building, containing the offices of the Superintendent and the hospital staff. It is at the center of the main group of buildings, which are conveniently connected by enclosed passageways.

How the Hospital Was Started

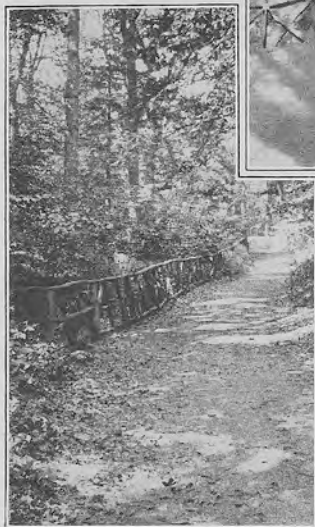
BUTLER HOSPITAL, located in Providence, R. I., had its origin in a bequest of the sum of \$30,000 by the Hon. Nicholas Brown, who died in 1841. His will provided for a hospital "where that unhappy portion of our fellow beings who are by the visitation of Providence deprived of their reason, may find a safe retreat, and be provided with whatever may be conducive to their comfort and to their restoration to a sound state of mind." His intention, as thus clearly defined, was followed to the letter by the committee of incorporators when they applied for a charter from the State for the "Rhode Island Asylum for the Insane." Although more than 80 years have elapsed since that event, and although modern psychiatry has made its work of mercy more far-reaching and effective than its founder had ever dreamed, the purpose of the institution has changed not one whit.

In those days there was little general enlightenment as to the real nature of insanity, or as to the possibility of its cure. The able and benevolent Dorothea Lynde Dix was just beginning her notable crusade for a more humane and scientific treatment of the insane. Her investigations led her to Rhode Island, where she discovered two things.



A 200-acre tract of land, bordering on the Seekonk River, serves as an ideal site for Butler Hospital, permitting ample room for recreational activities, and an undistracted retreat for patients.

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At all seasons of the year, the wooded walks about the Hospital grounds reveal Nature in a reposeful and soothing mood.



First, she struck upon scenes of misery almost beyond belief, scenes in deep stone dungeons without light or air, where insane persons were entombed in living death. Second, she found that "there existed in the City of Providence a small asylum, conducted on wise and humane principles, but totally inadequate to the demands made upon it."

Miss Dix resolved that an appeal to the wealthy and humane for the immediate enlargement of this asylum was a step that must be taken.

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Tennis is encouraged as an aid to convalescence, as are various other forms of outdoor recreation. These activities are conducted always under the supervision of competent nurses.

Her appeals were entirely in accord with the feeling of those connected with the Rhode Island Asylum for the Insane. Soon after their charter had been granted, the committee of incorporators, consisting of Thomas Burgess, Amasa Manton, Moses B. Ives, and Alexander Duncan, appealed to Cyrus Butler for financial support. Partly at their behest and partly through the influence of Miss Dix, he generously responded with a gift of \$40,000, under the condition that an equal sum be raised from other sources. This condition was successfully fulfilled, and a two-story building, 290 feet long, divided into a main building with east and west wings, accommodating 100 patients, was erected, at a cost of \$60,000, leaving an endowment fund of \$50,000. The purchase of a 114-acre tract of land bordering on the Seekonk River provided an ideal site.

Having complied with all the conditions laid down in the Hon. Nicholas Brown's will, and finding their work good, the trustees, in a meeting held November 8, 1844, unanimously voted to change the name of the institution from the "Rhode Island Asylum for the Insane" to "Butler Hospital for the Insane." In doing so they not only honored the man whose generosity made the institution practical, but they also more fully described the purpose of the institution,— the word "hospital" implying not only an "asylum" but also a place where an enlightened and persistent effort is made to cure the patients of their illness.

Through Succeeding Years

THE continued existence of Butler Hospital was now assured. Plans for grounds, buildings, and equipment were nearly complete. A most important decision, however, must still be made, the choice of a devoted, able man to direct the work of the new institution.

The selection of the learned and capable Dr. Isaac Ray as superintendent of Butler Hospital was unusually fortunate. For twenty-one years Doctor Ray contributed his exceptional skill to the relief of every sort of mental disease. Nor did his interest in the Hospital cease when he retired from service, for in his will he left a generous share of his estate for the use of the institution to which he had already given so much of himself.



The Weld House, a ward for male patients,
occupied in 1899.

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The success of Butler Hospital in the treatment of mental illnesses attracted the attention of many public-spirited persons. A Donation Fund was established, at first supported merely by members of the Board of Officers, but later by a widening circle of interested friends of the institution. In 1867 there is recorded a gift of \$5,000 from Miss Julia Bullock, the first gift of more than \$1,000 ever made by any one outside the Board of Officers.

In 1873 Alexander Duncan, "for many years president of this Corporation and always its liberal patron," gave \$30,000 for the erection of a new ward to be known as the David Duncan Ward, in memory of the donor's son, who had been active in the work of the Hospital. To this building fund Mr. Duncan and others subsequently made substantial additions.

Contributions "for the erection of a barn" were made by A. C. Barstow, Alexander Duncan, John Carter Brown, Mrs. C. R. Goddard, Hon. William Sprague, and Royal C. Taft. Total subscriptions for the new stable at last amounted to \$11,200, and the needed structure was raised.

In 1874 there are noted bequests of \$2,000 from Mrs. Lydia Carpenter of Pawtucket, R. I., and \$5,000 from John Carter Brown of Providence.

A gift of \$2,000 from W. H. Sanford for the building of a greenhouse was significant, in that the sum was given to express Mr. Sanford's appreciation of the care given his wife when she was a patient at Butler Hospital.

Into the records of the Hospital creep snatches of personal letters of deep appreciation, such as the one which accompanied this gift. They help us to understand how much the care of Butler Hospital has meant to patients made well again, and how great is the importance of such service.

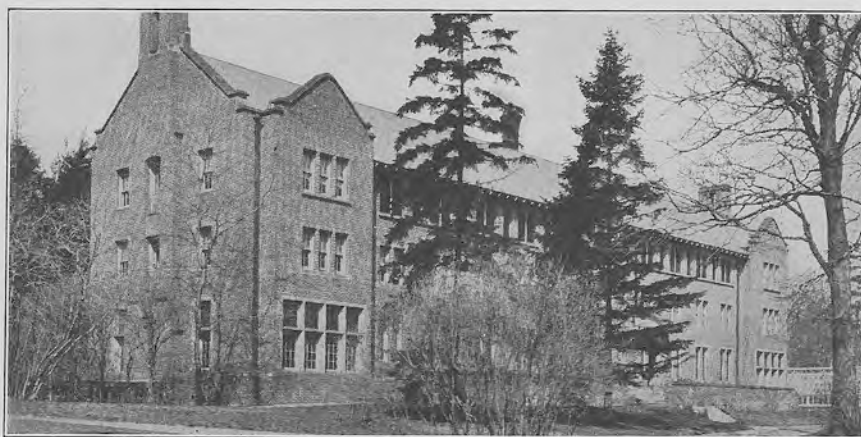
In 1880 Butler Hospital received a gift of \$5,000 from Alexander Duncan toward building a wing to correspond with

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the David Duncan Ward. The following year Henry A. Brown of Tiverton, R. I., left the institution \$3,900.

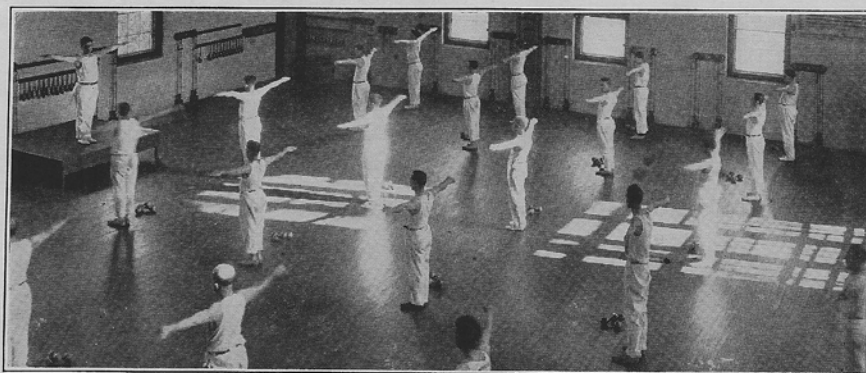
In 1882 was made the largest gift in the history of the Hospital up to that time. Mrs. William Gammell donated \$50,000, to be known as the Robert H. Ives Beneficiary Fund. The gift was made under the provision that \$50,000 additional be subscribed to a like fund, a provision which called forth the following generous bequests: Mr. Thomas Whitridge of Baltimore (formerly a Rhode Islander), \$10,000; William Goddard, \$5,000; Thomas P. I. Goddard, \$5,000; Mrs. Elizabeth S. Bartlett, \$5,000; Henry L. Kendall, \$5,000. Subscriptions of \$1,000 each were made by Amos D. Lockwood, Miss Julia Bullock, Joseph Fletcher, and Mrs. Mary W. Tustin. The fund was later increased by \$9,000 given by Prof. George Ide Chace.

In recording the history of the growth of Butler (which is, of necessity, the history of the donations which have made this growth possible) it would be difficult to record all or even many of the kind gifts which have been received.



The William H. Potter Home for Nurses,
occupied in 1913.

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A typical class at exercise in the DeLancey Kane Gymnasium, a building in continual use since 1915 as a means of treatment and a source of recreation.

It is equally difficult to tell the stories of the circumstances surrounding the gifts, or of the splendid work accomplished by the gifts — stories which would make cold statistics live with romance.

To say that Dr. Isaac Ray, at his death in 1887, left \$77,000 to Butler, means far more than we can here express concerning his sacrificial service and deep interest in the institution.

The records read, "May 3, 1888 — Bequest of Stephen Olney, \$10,000," or "June 16, 1888, Gift of Alexander Duncan — \$20,000." Behind these prosaic statements are stories of great hearts that made the gifts — of how each gift made possible the restoration of sick bodies and minds.

"Bequest of S. M. Noyes," the record reads, "\$10,000."

"Bequest of John Wilson Smith, \$5,000."

"Bequest of Julia Bullock, \$5,000."

Thomas P. I. Goddard, by his will, bequeathed Butler Hospital \$10,000. Four years later, in 1897, \$46,000 was given by William Goddard, Elizabeth A. Shepard, and Moses B. I. Goddard for the construction of a new ward to be known as the Thomas Poynton Ives Goddard House, in memory of this loyal friend of the institution.

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Shortly after the death of William G. Weld, also a generous patron of Butler Hospital, Mrs. Weld made a gift of \$75,000 in memory of her husband. It was provided that the sum should be used for the construction of a new addition to the north ward. To the upkeep and improvement of the Weld House and to the general hospital fund, Mrs. Weld made many further donations.

In March, 1893, the Hospital made its first general plea. It asked for 100 guarantors to pay annually \$50 each. The one hundred shares were taken, 64 guarantors each taking one or more shares.

The bequest of \$50,000 by John Nicholas Brown established a permanent fund whose income is used toward paying the board and expenses of poor patients.

For a new conservatory, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Shepard contributed \$14,000, and Mrs. Shepard later bequeathed the Hospital \$10,000.

The gifts at this time included those of Col. William H. Potter of Kingston, amounting to \$12,000, in addition to a later bequest of \$38,200. Other donors were Henry Pearce,



Ray Hall, used as a chapel and auditorium. This building was erected in memory of Dr. Isaac Ray, the first superintendent of Butler Hospital, whose skill and sacrificial service contributed largely to the subsequent success of the institution.

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\$15,000; Mrs. Henry G. Russell, \$25,000; and Mary H. Goldsmith, \$14,000.

The need for a gymnasium was filled in 1915, at a cost of about \$20,000, by the gift of Mrs. DeLancey Astor Kane. Mrs. Kane has also made yearly contributions for the maintenance of the gymnasium, and to offset the Hospital deficit.

Among the recent donations to the fund of Butler Hospital have been the bequests by Elizabeth A. Shepard of \$25,000, by James W. Gwinn of \$14,000, and gifts by Stephen O. Metcalf amounting to \$35,000, and by Charles H. Merriman, \$6,000.

The work of human service is never done. The splendid work of healing mental illness has just begun, its opportunities still rapidly widening.

The fund for the general endowment of Butler Hospital is still small. It is, even at present, in need of the help of all of us. Shall we not do what we can?



Main entrance gates to the Butler Hospital grounds,
Blackstone Boulevard, Providence.

Healing Mental Illnesses

A WOMAN broken, dejected, almost oblivious of everything about her, sits in her room in the ward in Butler Hospital where acute cases are cared for. Her head is hanging. Her body droops forward. She opens her mouth only when a spoon or glass with food or drink is pressed to her lips.

Still, there is a little flush of health creeping back into her cheeks. Her condition is much better now than it was when she arrived a few days ago. Then she was mumbling constantly. Her listless eyes saw nothing. She was rapidly going down hill. Now she is gradually regaining mental and physical health.

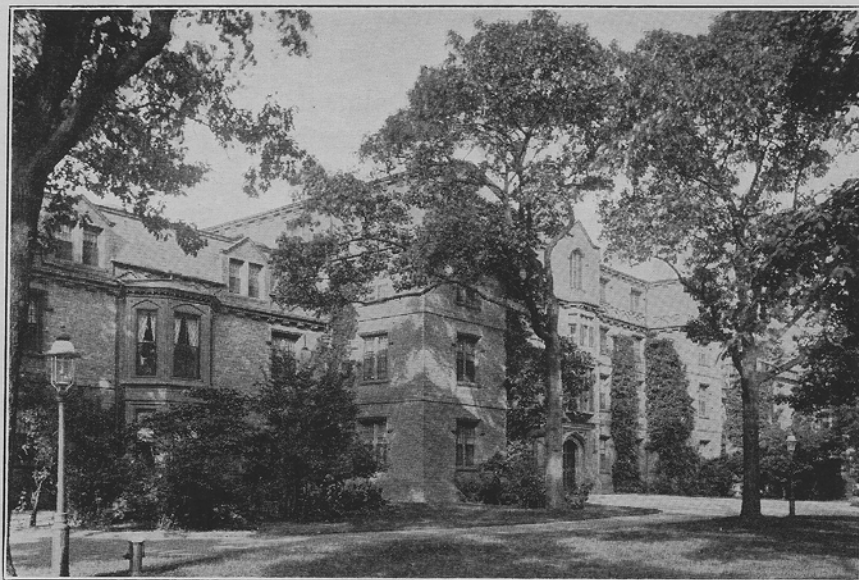
She had been poor . . . worked hard . . . had three children in four years . . . her husband had lost his position . . . one of her children had contracted influenza . . . in caring for the child she, too, was taken sick. She broke beneath the strain.

Because of her nervous condition she could not be cared for in a general hospital. But at Butler, mind and body alike will be cared for. To nurse her back to health and reason and strength is not impossible. Like others brought to Butler Hospital for care, she will be studied and helped, will be rested and taught, will be given every opportunity for rest and for recovery.

The pervading atmosphere of Butler Hospital is one of *rest*. You feel the spirit of peace everywhere. It is in the beauty of the spacious fields, the verdure of cool forests, in the ravines and brooks and beautifully-kept old trees that stand sentinel to keep the noisy confusion of the outside world from entering. Everywhere there is a calm atmosphere which will quiet overwrought minds and relieve the tension of mental excitement.

Grounds and buildings are peaceful. There is no bustling of nurses — only a quiet precision. Everything is done to

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Broad lawns, shaded by century-old trees, surround all the buildings, and give the patients a stimulating outlook.

help patients quiet their unstrung nerves, to make them feel at home and at rest.

And the result? You will see it as you pass from the wards where newly arrived, acutely ill patients are, to the other wards where, more and more, the patients are regaining their rationality, finding again the true relations of things, tasting life once more.

The first step in treating the mentally ill is, of course, learning the history of the patient, studying his present condition, and making a thorough diagnosis and prognosis of the case. When a patient enters, no matter what his apparent condition, he goes to bed for at least three days, during which time he is under constant observation. The attending psychiatrist, in making his study of the case, takes every step to make the patient realize that he is in a hospital, and that the object of his coming is to effect a cure.

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Before the final decision as to treatment is made, the case is summarized before the staff, of which the Superintendent is head. The patient is brought before the staff. Later the attending physician goes over his recommendations with the staff. After this thorough consultation, the treatment of the case is begun, with every step taken to assure a complete recovery as soon as possible.

Consulting specialists are called in to care for any surgical or special treatment which may be needed. For this service, as for all treatment at Butler, the patient is asked to pay *what he can afford*. In most cases, the payment is only a fraction of the expense, but patients are far more willing to coöperate in their own cure when they pay something toward the expense of their care.

The wards where the newly arrived and acute cases are



There is a homelike atmosphere about the separate dining rooms operated in each ward.

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The most scrupulous attention is given to dietetics. Wholesome, health-giving food is prepared by experienced cooks, under the direction of trained dietitians.

kept form a strong contrast to the wards used for this purpose in years gone by. There were once days when it was felt that the patient should be kept in a room bare of furniture, lest he should injure himself. Or, if there were any furniture, it would be great chairs made of six-inch rounds. These immensely heavy affairs were once considered necessary, because their great weight prevented patients from throwing them about.

But the wards for acute cases in Butler Hospital to-day reflect no such atmosphere. Although constant vigilance must be maintained in the early stages of a patient's recovery, everything is done to make him feel that he is free, to banish from his mind the sense of confinement.

In a bygone day, many types of acutely ill patients were absolutely confined in locked rooms with barred windows. This, in many cases, only made the patient's condition worse. At Butler Hospital, the patient is left as free as possible, carefully watched by nurses when this is necessary. The object is to keep him in his ward by persuasion, if possible, not by mechanical barriers. The results have proved well worth the additional care and expense. If there were sufficient funds to provide an adequate number of nurses, locks and bars might be done away with and the patients would be virtually as free as the air.

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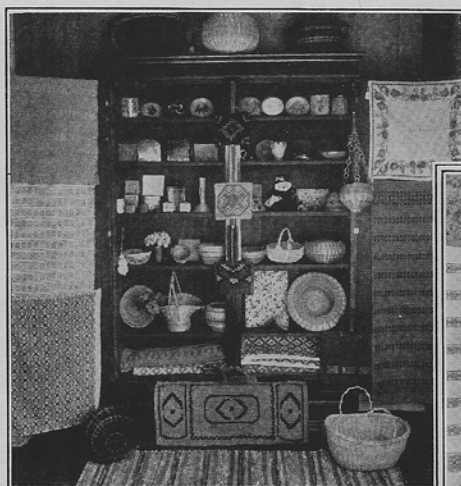
Creative work is an effective curative for mental illness, giving the patient some tangible objective upon which to concentrate.



Classes in loom work are shown in these pictures.

There are pictures everywhere. This would have been considered foolhardy in the extreme a few years ago, because of the glass, with which the patients might harm themselves. But pictures add to the atmosphere of ease and rest and home. They help in assuring recovery. The furniture is modern and

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Woven goods, baskets, pottery, lamp shades, and various other articles produced by women patients of Butler Hospital.



Most of these are on sale to the public, the proceeds being applied to the hospital's needs.

homelike. Each patient has his own room. Each ward has a separate dining-room, with its own serving room, where wholesome, delicious food is sent from a spotless central kitchen.

All these things are expensive. They make an increased supply of nurses necessary and add to the expense of maintenance in many ways, but actual results have proved these steps worth while.

Work is an essential in the curing of mental illness. Something to occupy the patient's mind, to help him gain confidence in himself. This *occupational therapy* is one of the great means of effecting the cure of nervous diseases.

In the women's occupational therapy ward there are hand looms and materials for needle-point work or the making of decorative lamp shades. Sometimes when a woman first enters this ward an attendant has to sit beside her and show her every movement to make. Gradually she takes interest in doing something. She finds a new happiness in her work. She

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does more and more without assistance. After a stay she can, perhaps, do complete work from the patterns, absolutely unaided.

There are similar facilities for men, who do carpentry work, basket making, and hooked rug work. There is even a power jig saw, a machine whose use would have been absolutely unthought of under the stern and less enlightened old system.

Some exquisite work is done by both men and women. Each year the pieces are sold, netting a modest sum which is used toward the purchase of supplies.

Hydro-therapy, or water treatment, is another effective curative. Several hours of relaxation in water at 98°, ice packs on the head, and hot drinks have proved their worth in abating mental excitement and allowing the patient to pass along to the convalescent ward. A Quartz Lamp is used in treating certain skin lesions and in the correction of blood chemistry and cell disorders. Surgical operations and treatments of every kind are given to the patients as they are needed, with no thought whatever of expense. Speedy recovery is the only consideration.

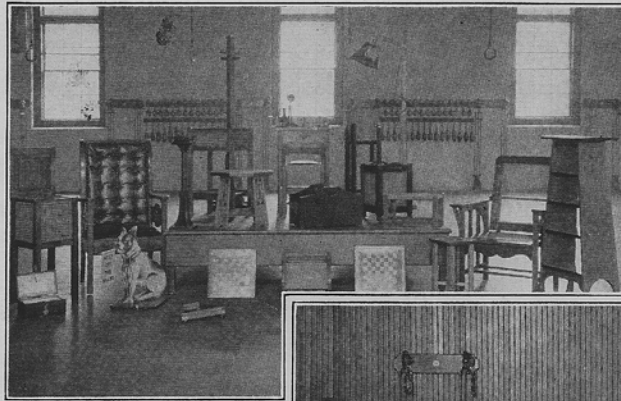


Occupational treatment for men patients includes wood working, furniture making, caning, and toy making.

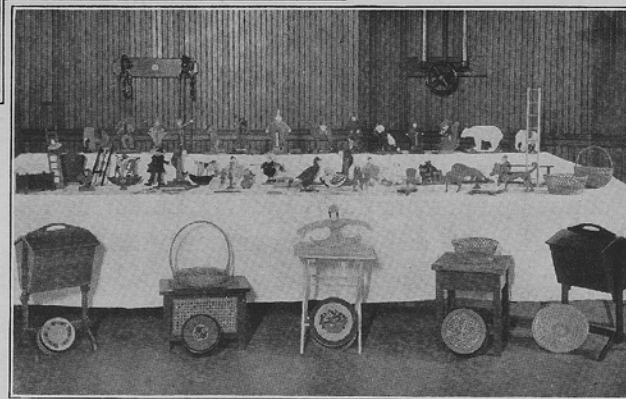
In many cases great deftness is speedily acquired with tools — leading to an aroused interest in regaining mental health.



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Some typical products of the men's occupational therapy ("work cure") classes, purchasable by the public.

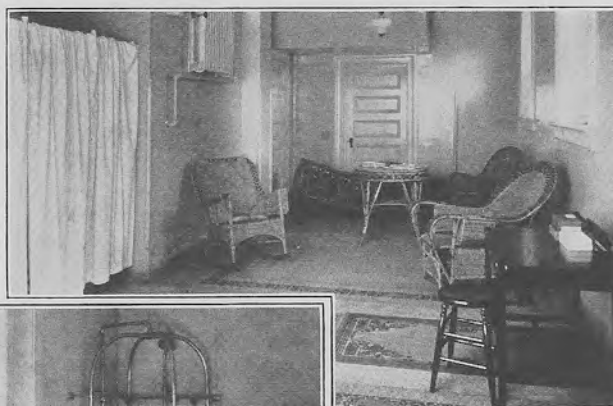


There are two reasons why every effort is made to secure recovery in the least possible time. First, for the sake of the patient himself. Second, because with the present limited equipment of Butler Hospital, every facility is constantly taxed, and not until a patient is dismissed can another be taken. Thus, rapid turnover means an increased number who can be helped.

The gymnasium, the athletic field, the assembly hall, and the library play a most important part in the curative work of the mental hospital. Men whose minds, like racing engines, have been tearing themselves to pieces because they have nothing to which they are attached, need some constructive activity. They need work, both mental and physical, to take up their thoughts. They need realities to replace their dreams, and something to make them forget themselves.

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A waiting or consultation room in the hydrotherapy ward.

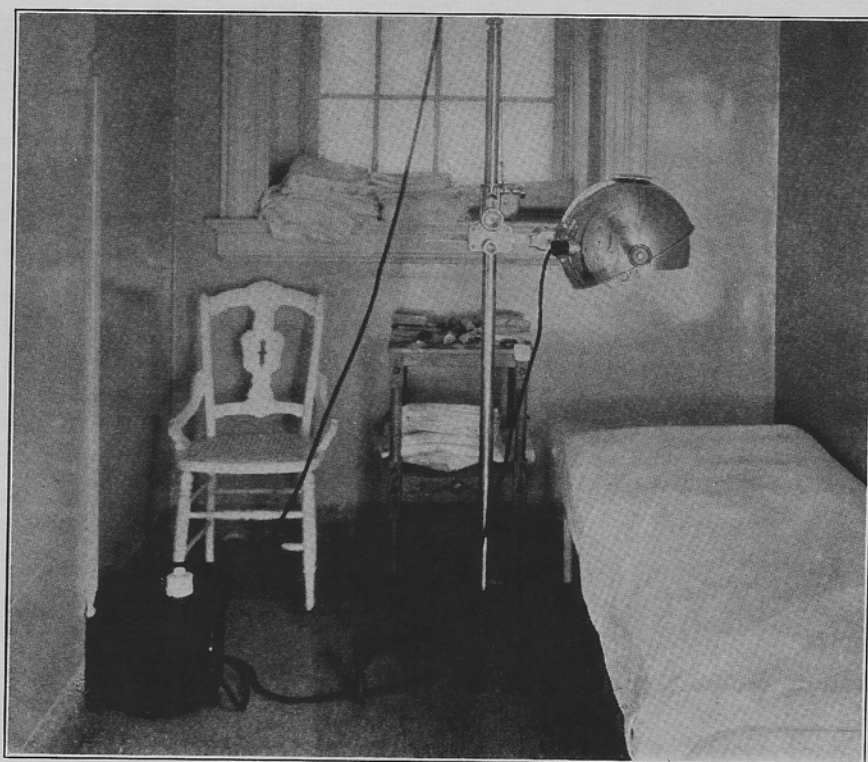


Hydrotherapy, or water treatment, is a modern, effective treatment for mental illnesses. One of the treatment rooms in the hydrotherapy ward at Butler Hospital.

Through the acute stages of mental disorders, through convalescence, even when the cure is almost complete, the patients are seldom, if ever, *forced* to do anything. They need not do a stroke of work unless they wish to. They are made to understand, however, that they have come to be cured. The Hospital is doing everything possible to help them recover, and experience has shown that this work is of great help in assuring a rapid recovery. If the patients do not do it, they are hindering their own cure. When the importance of this is understood, the question seldom arises again.

There are plenty of recreations, too, with a putting green, a horseshoe court, a baseball field, and tennis courts out of doors, and the well-equipped DeLancey Kane gymnasium for indoor exercise. Most of the out-door recreational facilities are the work of the patients themselves.

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A Quartz Lamp, for improving physical disorders, is one of the many modern scientific devices which aid the cure of patients at Butler Hospital.

The patients who are nearly well are treated almost as guests. They stay in their rooms if they wish, or go to the library, to the lounging rooms, or out riding with their families, at will.

When the cure is completed and the intensely grateful patient is sent back into the world again, there comes one of the most critical points of the whole case. The dejected woman whom we first saw when we entered the Hospital has been treated, rested, and fed back to health and strength and rationality. She may go home. But to what?

Obviously the conditions which made her break at first must be remedied, or the same disastrous results are likely to

repeat themselves. To remove the *cause* of the trouble and see that a relapse does not occur is the very important work of the Out-Patient Department.

Every effort is made to remove the stumbling blocks which might bring another breakdown. The importance of work like this is tremendous, and it is being extended as rapidly as funds permit. No charge is ever made for this social service. The cost is borne entirely by the Hospital.

To cure mental illness, to cure it as quickly as possible, is an expensive process. The more thorough the treatment, the more modern the means employed, the higher, of course, is the cost. The average patient at Butler Hospital now costs the institution nearly \$7.00 a day. This figure, too, is very low in the light of the service rendered. Yet the amount received for such care is the same as it has always been, for it is determined solely by what the patient can afford to pay.

Thousands of dollars are yearly paid for each of several modern treatments which were not even in use in the earlier days of the institution. Occupational therapy costs approximately \$10,000 a year, laboratory examinations, \$2,000, and hydrotherapy \$2,000. The training of nurses for more effective service, the keeping of far more complete (and consequently more helpful) records, a greater number of X-rays to be taken and interpreted — all these bring added usefulness—and added expense. Maintaining the invaluable Out-Patient Department, of which more will be told in a later chapter, is one of the most far-reaching of the newer services offered by Butler Hospital.

Reason is a priceless possession. To restore reason . . . to bring light out of darkness . . . is a mission worthy of every cent of money, of every ounce of effort, that can be marshaled for such service. To render this service most effectively and as speedily as possible, is the high calling of Butler Hospital.

Widening Service

IT may be said that the treatment of mental illness has had three stages. First, the idea of segregation, an incorrect and rapidly disappearing notion that a mentally ill person is a thing apart, incapable of permanent cure, who should be separated from his fellow men.

The second era, entered at about the time that Butler Hospital was founded, is the *cure* of mental illnesses. The preceding chapters have shown how mental health is successfully restored to many patients at Butler Hospital to-day. Butler itself is a tangible evidence of the fact that mental health is procurable. Here thousands of patients who, in an earlier day, would have been considered incapable of cure, have been restored to the world *completely recovered*. Thousands more have been benefited so much that they could again assume their responsibilities to society.

The third, and rapidly advancing step, is *prevention* of mental disease. Nearly one-third of the work of the staff of Butler Hospital is now carried on along this line.

Consultation with physicians as to the nervous condition of their patients forms an important part of this service. Often enough the business man, worn out by the strain of his work, or keyed up to the breaking point with responsibility, needs the advantages of treatment at Butler Hospital *before* the break comes.

Men and women in every walk of life meet with circumstances which may threaten their mental health. The debutante and the woman who labors by the day may each find themselves in conditions where they need the help of Butler to *prevent* mental illness. It is to these that Butler offers what is, perhaps, its greatest service.

A study of the behavior problems of children is another helpful and rapidly progressing phase of the work at Butler.

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The *prevention* of mental disease forms an important part of Butler Hospital's work.
Office of the Out-Patient Department, for consultation work.

"Queer" children are often *misunderstood* children. Boys and girls whom some would declare "all bad" may need only study and treatment to mould them into useful men and women.

There was a boy — a bright boy, too,— who delighted in killing cats and setting fire to things. Punishment and precept alike did no good. A school for the feeble-minded was not the place for the lad, for he was ahead, rather than behind his age. A reform school did not accomplish its purpose in his case.

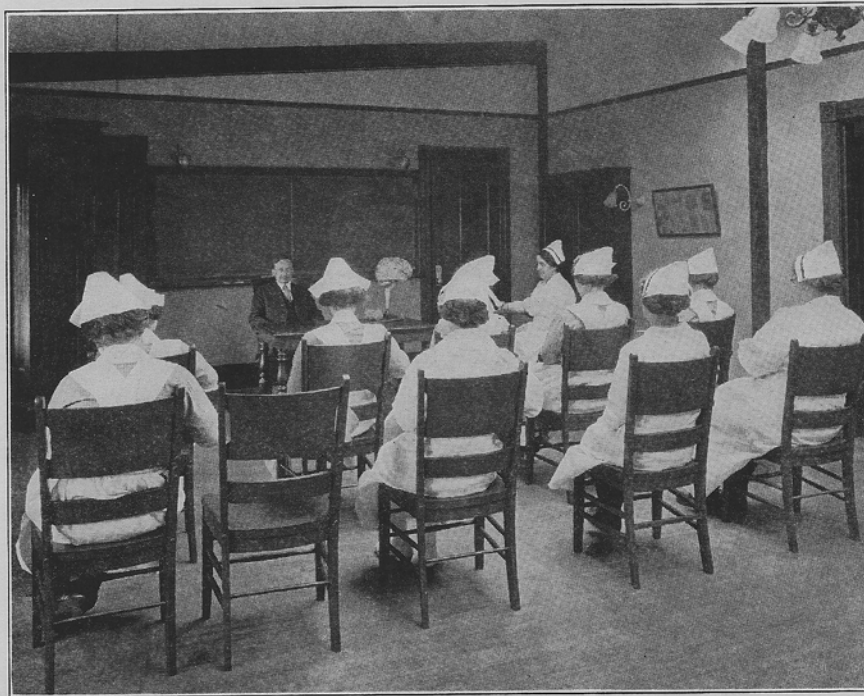
At Butler Hospital it was found that the boy had a form of sleeping sickness, which was responsible for his wrong-doing. Treatment was begun. He responded to it. To-day he is in a fair way toward becoming a responsible and creditable citizen.

Preventing mental illness as well as curing it, understanding and helping children before a whole life is ruined, combating breakdowns before they take their toll; is there a saner, more vital human service?

For Humanity

THE very nature of its mission demands that Butler Hospital shall admit, without thought of expense, every case which falls within its field and which it is able to help.

Up to the limit of its capacity, Butler Hospital has, since its founding, treated the mental illnesses of all sorts and conditions of men. Many of its patients are poor. Over 70% of the present patients at Butler are unable to pay more than a fraction of their expense, but this has nothing to do with the necessity for their cure or the humanity of their case. They are crying for the help which this Hospital can give. Who could see such need and go by on the other side?



The School for Nurses, established in 1895, not only assures Butler Hospital of an efficient nursing personnel, but contributes many graduates for service in the widening field of mental hygiene.

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That young man there, for instance, whose eyes burn so strangely, and whose fingers twitch as he grasps the doctor's hand, but who seems to steady himself by it, as if some strength had gone from the doctor into him — what if he *is* poor? What if his family can pay less than a third of the cost of his care and treatment? The only questions asked are, "Does he need treatment?" and "Has he a chance for recovery?"

He is in a high state of mental excitement — must be moving — doing something every moment. In a week he has lost 20 pounds by his constant physical activity. But he is responding to a treatment without whose help, or even without the new atmosphere of rest and freedom which is given him, he would not long have survived. His very life would have



Each patient has his or her own room, affording a cheerful, homelike atmosphere which helps materially in recovery.

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been worn out by his own exertion. Now, through care, he is getting well.

It is a wonderful thing to save a life. Yet it seems just as glorious to restore reason, without which life is not life at all, but a weird, fantastic dream. That is what Butler Hospital does in the large majority of cases which come knocking at its gates for help.

Last year there were discharged from Butler Hospital one hundred and thirty-one patients, of whom thirty-seven were completely recovered, and fifty-seven materially improved. Each of these cases, when it entered Butler, was an *acute* case of mental disorder, which, to say the least, would be a burden to family, to friends, to society. In many cases, death or life-long derangement was imminent.

It is a worthy work. Nor has its worth gone unnoticed or unsupported. Generous gifts (most of them it is true, made in years gone by) have established a moderate endowment. Patients who have been cured at Butler are eternally grateful and, whenever they are asked to contribute funds, give to a point of genuine personal sacrifice.

Those who know the work are devoted to it. Employees of the Hospital, when the need arises, will buy occupational therapy materials from their own pocket, to help the work along. Butler has many devoted, sacrificial friends.

Despite such loyal support, however, enlarged service and increased expenses have very severely taxed every resource of which Butler Hospital could avail itself. The per capita cost per week has risen from \$38.74 in 1921 to \$46.34 in 1925. The number of patients paying less than per capita cost rose from 98 to 112 in the same time. The total number of patients in the Hospital at the end of the year rose from 136 in 1921 to 150 in 1925.

The gap between income and expense seems to widen every year. Interest from the endowment of approximately

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\$600,000, once ample, is no longer sufficient to bridge the deficit. Yet the work will go on. It must advance, broaden its field to take care of those increasing numbers who need its help but whom it cannot accommodate.

The immediate need of Butler Hospital is for 250 guarantors, who will pledge \$100 a year each to meet the annual deficit. More permanently, the present endowment must, by gift or bequest, be built up to a point where it will assure an adequate annual fund, with a surplus to care for long-needed expansion.

Mental illness brings up grim pictures. To those afflicted, and to the families and friends who love them, there comes suffering and despair more mocking than that which any physical disease can bring.



In the library the convalescent patients find excellent books, chosen with special regard to the needs of the readers. Portraits of the founders of Butler Hospital adorn the walls.

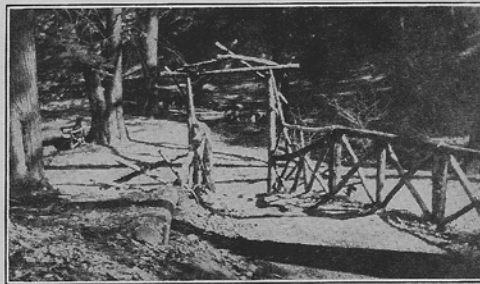
• BUTLER HOSPITAL •

To have compassion on these, to bind up their wounds, to heal torn minds and souls, was a work conceived and carried forward by those far-sighted and great-hearted men of a bygone generation who founded Butler Hospital. Their beneficence is, to a large extent, responsible for the ever-widening service which is being carried on to-day.

It almost seems that these men, whose burdens must be borne by new hands, whose ideals must be carried forward, may be saying to us of the present generation, as the Flanders dead cried to the living,

“ . . . To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high . . . ”

Will you not help Butler Hospital to keep the faith with these — and with humanity?



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THOSE who are interested in the work Butler Hospital is doing for the many patients under its care, are cordially invited to call and become better acquainted with the hospital by personal inspection. We can sketch briefly the history and purpose of such an institution in a booklet of this character, but we can not here convey to you any real picture of the sympathetic endeavor of our staff or the grateful response of those who have turned to us in their affliction. This you would have to see with your own eyes.

The Superintendent and his staff always feel it a privilege to conduct visitors through the various wards and departments and answer questions relative to the work under their charge.

ARTHUR H. RUGGLES, M. D.
Superintendent

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Those who desire to assist Butler Hospital by will may do so by having the following clause written into the instrument:

Form of Bequest

I hereby give and bequeath to Butler Hospital, a Corporation duly incorporated by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, the sum ofDollars, for the charitable purposes of said institution.

Name.....



Those who desire to become guarantors of Butler Hospital may make their subscriptions as follows:

Form of Pledge

The undersigned, as Guarantor of the Deficiency Fund of Butler Hospital, agrees to pay to its Treasurer, on demand, after (insert date here), the proportionate part of the deficiency for the year ending on that day, for each share taken by me; the liability, however, under no circumstances is to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per share.

Name.....

Address.....

Shares.....

Livermore & Knight Co.
Providence—New York—Boston